

Key Decision Record – Officers

This record must be completed as soon as the decision is made and forwarded together with any reports immediately to Democratic Services.

Name of Officer taking decision: *(please give name and title)*

Marion Davis, Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families

Date of Decision:

12 February, 2010

Urgent Matter: Yes/No* If Urgent Name of Councillor Giving Consent

NO

Confidential or Exempt *[please state category of exempt information]*

NO

Summary of Matter

This is a request to go out to tender for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for Looked After Children following the end of the current contract

Decision Taken

To go out to tender

Is the decision taken contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the policy framework or budget? NO

Reasons for Decision

See attached report

Any Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

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List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]

Formal report

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List of Background Papers [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

Commissioning Board Report

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Any members consulted together with any declarations of interests and any dispensations from the Audit and Standards Committee

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Cabinet Portfolio Holder
Councillor John Ross, Char of the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Decision maker

Strategic Director

Date of Decision

Report Title

Tender for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for Looked After Children

Summary

This report seeks agreement of the strategic director to go to tender for renewal of contract for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for Looked After Children.

For further information please contact:

This service specifically for looked after children has now been in operation for the last three years, with the current contract coming to an end in July 2010. The service is delivered through a tripartite agreement between WCC Social Care, WCC Educational Psychology and the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust. In December 2009, the Children's Trust Joint Commissioning Board approved the recommendation to de-commission and re-tender the service, following consideration of available options.

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?

No

Background papers

None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s)

Not applicable

Other Elected Members

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Cabinet Members | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Chief Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cllr Izzi Seccombe (CYPF portfolio holder) |
| Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Victoria Gould |
| Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| District Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

FINAL DECISION NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Further consideration by Portfolio holders | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Cabinet | |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Further Consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Tender for Child and Adolescent Health Services for Looked After Children

Report to Strategic Director of Children, Young People & Families

Recommendations

1. That the Strategic Director approves proceeding with a tender for the provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service for Looked After Children with effect from 1st August 2010.
2. The Strategic Director - Children, Young People and Families enters into all relevant contracts for the provision of CAMHS LAC on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director of Resources and the Strategic Director of Customers, Workforce and Governance.

1. Background

National data shows that mental health issues have a high prevalence among looked after children. Local authorities in partnership with their health colleagues are expected to provide services to ensure that looked after children receive appropriate support and care for mental health issues.

The current contractual arrangements for the CAMHS LAC service come to an end on 31st March 2010 (although an exemption has been secured until 31 July 2010 to allow a full tender process to take place). Although this service is reported upon favourably by service users, there has been very little in the way of reliable data produced to prove value for money and positive outcomes. This is attributed lack of 'lead provider' in the tripartite agreement between WCC Social Care, WCC Educational Psychology and the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust.

In order to address this the Children's Trust Joint Commissioning Board agreed that one organisation should act as the responsible provider, employing/seconding the multi disciplinary team needed for the effective delivery of the service.

2. Options

The Children's Trust Joint Commissioning Board considered the following options:

- a) To tender out the elements of the service which are not provided by the Children in Need Division (CYPF) for an organisation to deliver against the psychological intervention, aspects of the service. (This would be on the basis that we believe that part of the service needs to be provided internally)
- b) Approach the three agencies currently involved in the delivery of the service and ask them each to submit a tender, to manage the service, employing a multi agency team to deliver against the outcomes required. (This would be on the basis that we feel that it must be this mix of statutory services that need to deliver this service)

c) That the contract be put out to open tender to test the market. (This would be on the basis that we believe that another agency may be well placed to provide and co-ordinate a integrated multi agency approach).

The Joint Commissioning Board agreed that the best option would be to put the contract out to open tender (c), ensuring that all agencies wishing to provide the service have an equal chance of winning the tender and becoming the preferred provider.

3. Potential savings for WCC

Forthcoming national research suggests that mental health services for looked after children should be Targeted Services (preventative) rather than Specialist Services (treatment). However, looked after children are still entitled to access Specialist CAMHS should they meet the referral criteria. In this way the service specification will focus on preventative/early interventions rather than treatment interventions. There is potential here for the service to be less expensive if health colleagues are not required to provide treatment interventions as these are more expensive than third sector and private companies preventative interventions, although it is recognised that the service will require some specialist mental health input. Additionally there are discussions underway with Coventry with regards to a joint provision – this too would have the potential for economies of scale.

4. Summary and Conclusion

In conclusion, the Children's Trust Joint Commissioning Board agreed that:

- The current tripartite partnership arrangement be decommissioned.
- That the new service specification ensures the provision of a menu of interventions available to professionals (working with LAC), carers, looked after and adopted children, birth to 18, to restore and promote their mental health and that this service will be able to provide interventions other than those associated with attachment issues (such as trauma associated with unaccompanied asylum seekers) and will be built around the individual emotional well being needs of the child.
- That the desired and measured outcome be that of improved mental health.
- That the CAMHS-LAC service be tendered out to the market.

5. Recommendations

- That the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families approves proceeding with a tender for the provision of CAMHS LAC with effect from 1st August 2010.
- That the Strategic Director of *Strategic Director - Children, Young People and Families* enters into all relevant contracts for the provision of CAMHS LAC on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director of Resources and the Strategic Director of Customers, Workforce and Governance

Marion Davis:

Strategic Director of Children,
Young People & Families
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick

Signature
Strategic Director of Resources

Date